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RANADHIRA



THE VALOROUS KING OF MYSORE

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Ranadhira Kanthirava Narasaraja Wodeyar (1638-1659), king of Mysore, was a popular ruler who introduced many reforms. To this day, many tales are told of his extraordinary strength, keen intellect and generosity. It was during his reign that Mysore became a major power in the South.

Before Ranadhira succeeded to the throne, he had to deal with the wicked and ambitious Vikramaraya, the Dalwai, or chief minister, of the kingdom.

The material for this Amar Chitra Katha has been drawn from the account given by Lt. Col. Mark Wilks in his *History of Mysore* and from *Vamshavali*, a work in Kannada published by the Mysore Palace.

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RANADHIRA



THE CHIEFTAIN OF TIRUCHIRAPALLI WAS A GREAT PATRON OF WRESTLING.

BRAVO, MAHAMALLA-
IS THERE ANYONE
MIGHTIER THAN
YOU ?

I DON'T
THINK SO. BUT
WHY DON'T YOU
FIND OUT ?

I DON'T
THINK SO. BUT
WHY DON'T YOU
FIND OUT?



THE WRESTLER'S LOIN-CLOTH WAS HUNG ON THE GATEWAY MUCH TO THE DISTASTE OF THE POPULACE—



ONE DAY, TWO TRAVELLERS CAME RIDING BY.



THEY WERE ABOUT TO ENTER THE FORT WHEN THEY PULLED TO A HALT.



BUT THE YOUNG
HOTHEAD PAID
NO HEED TO
THE WARNING.



GREAT WAS THE
EXCITEMENT AS THE
NEWS SPREAD LIKE
WILDFIRE.

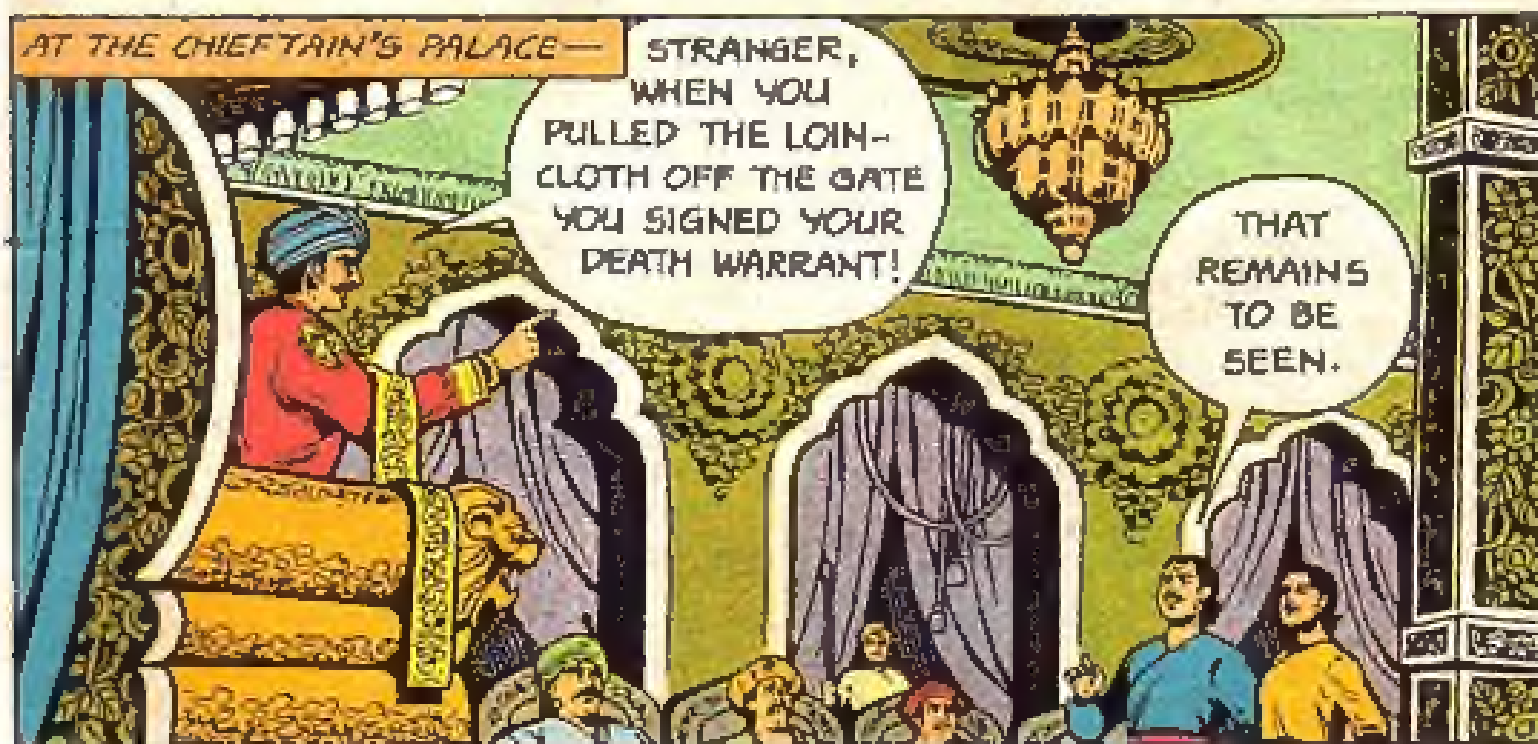
HE JUST CUT
DOWN THE CLOTH
EVEN THOUGH HE
KNEW OF MAHA-
MALLA'S
CHALLENGE.

WHAT
COURAGE!

BUT HIS DAYS
ARE NUMBERED;
MAHAMALLA WILL
CRUSH HIM.



MEANWHILE THE PALACE GUARDS HAD CLOSED IN ON THE YOUNG MAN.



A LARGE CROWD HAD GATHERED TO WATCH THE MATCH ARRANGED BETWEEN THE VISITOR AND MAHAMALLA.



A FEW MOMENTS LATER —



HE'S CLEVER, THIS YOUNG MAN! BUT I KNOW ONE TRICK THAT WILL FINISH HIM OFF!





WE'LL MEET IN
VAJRA MUSHTHI*
NOW.

ALL RIGHT,
I'M READY.

AS THE TWO PREPARED TO TAKE
UP THEIR POSITIONS, ONE OF THE
SPECTATORS WHISPERED A
WARNING TO THE
YOUNG MAN.

TAKE CARE!
HE'LL USE A
SECRET
WEAPON!

HMM...
SO THAT'S
HIS GAME!
THE
TRICKSTER!



THE ROUND BEGAN. THE WREST-
LERS WERE LOCKED IN A
SUFFOCATING EMBRACE.

BUT SECONDS LATER THE YOUNG WRESTLER
HAD SMOOTHLY STEPPED BACK —

WHY HAVE
YOU
STOPPED?

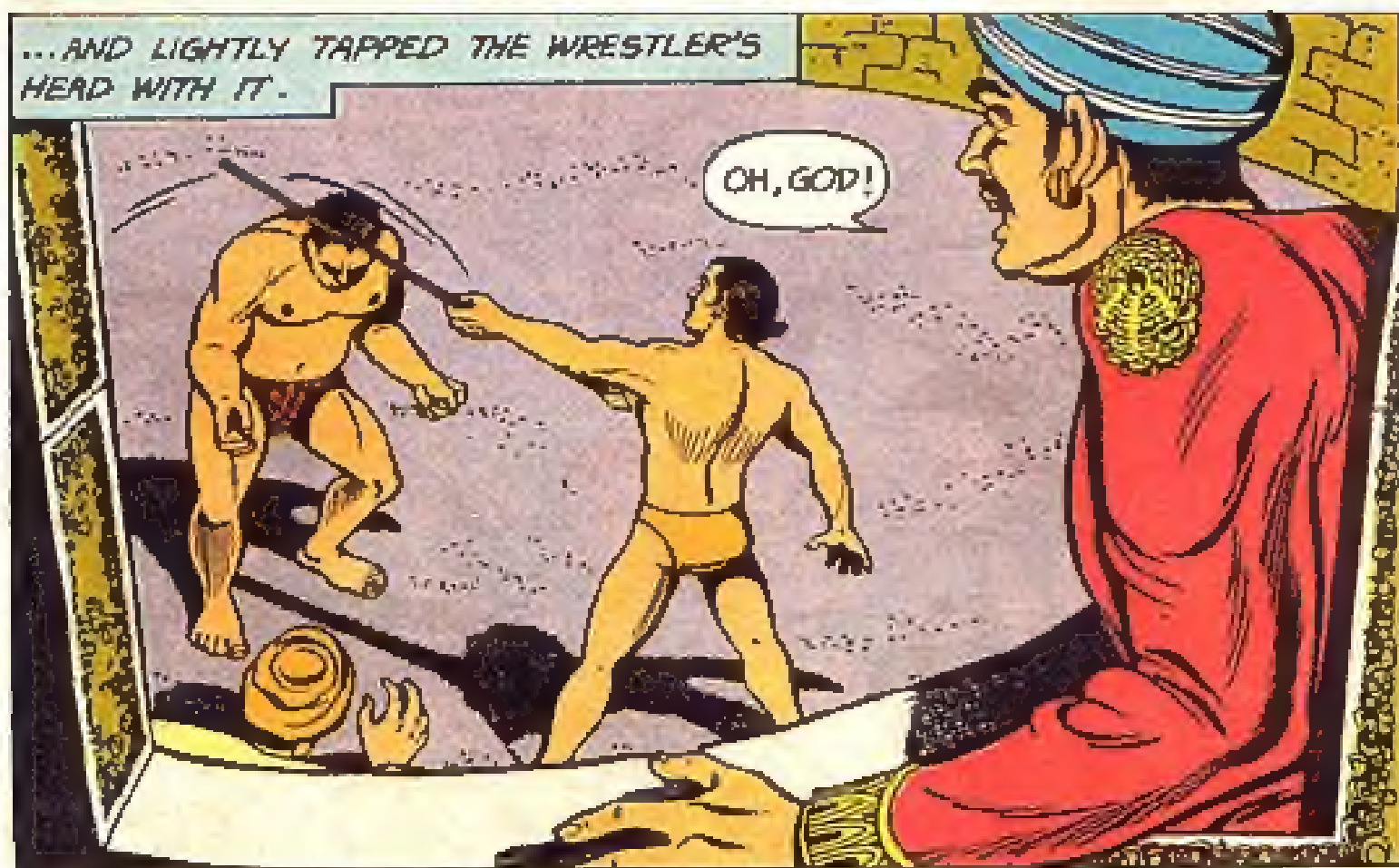


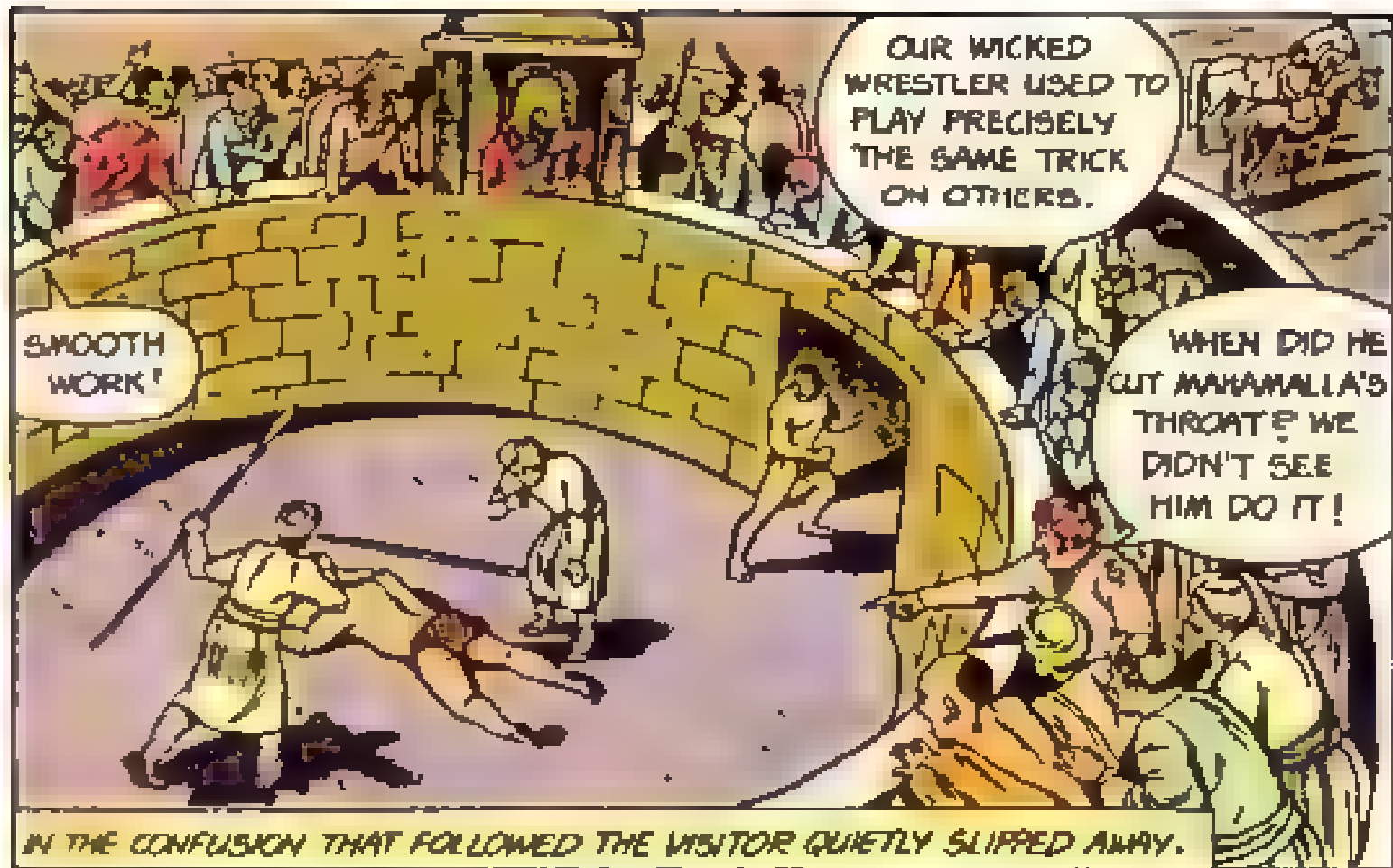
IN ANSWER, THE YOUNG MAN
SNATCHED A SPEAR FROM ONE
OF THE GUARDS ...



...AND LIGHTLY TAPPED THE WRESTLER'S
HEAD WITH IT.

OH, GOD!





SMOOTH
WORK!

OUR WICKED
WRESTLER USED TO
PLAY PRECISELY
THE SAME TRICK
ON OTHERS.

WHEN DID HE
CUT MAHAMALLA'S
THROAT? WE
DIDN'T SEE
HIM DO IT!

IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWED THE VISITOR QUIETLY SLIPPED AWAY.

THE CHIEFTAIN WAS VERY ANGRY.

WHERE HAS
HE GONE? BRING
HIM HERE AT
ONCE!

AFTER A FUTILE SEARCH AN OFFICER CAME
TO REPORT

HE HAS VANISHED, BUT
HE HAS LEFT A MESSAGE
ON THE WALL OF THE
FORT.

THE CHIEFTAIN RODE UP TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE FORT.

THE MAN WHO
KILLED THAT
ARROGANT
VILLAIN IS A
COMMON
WRESTLER
FROM MYSORE



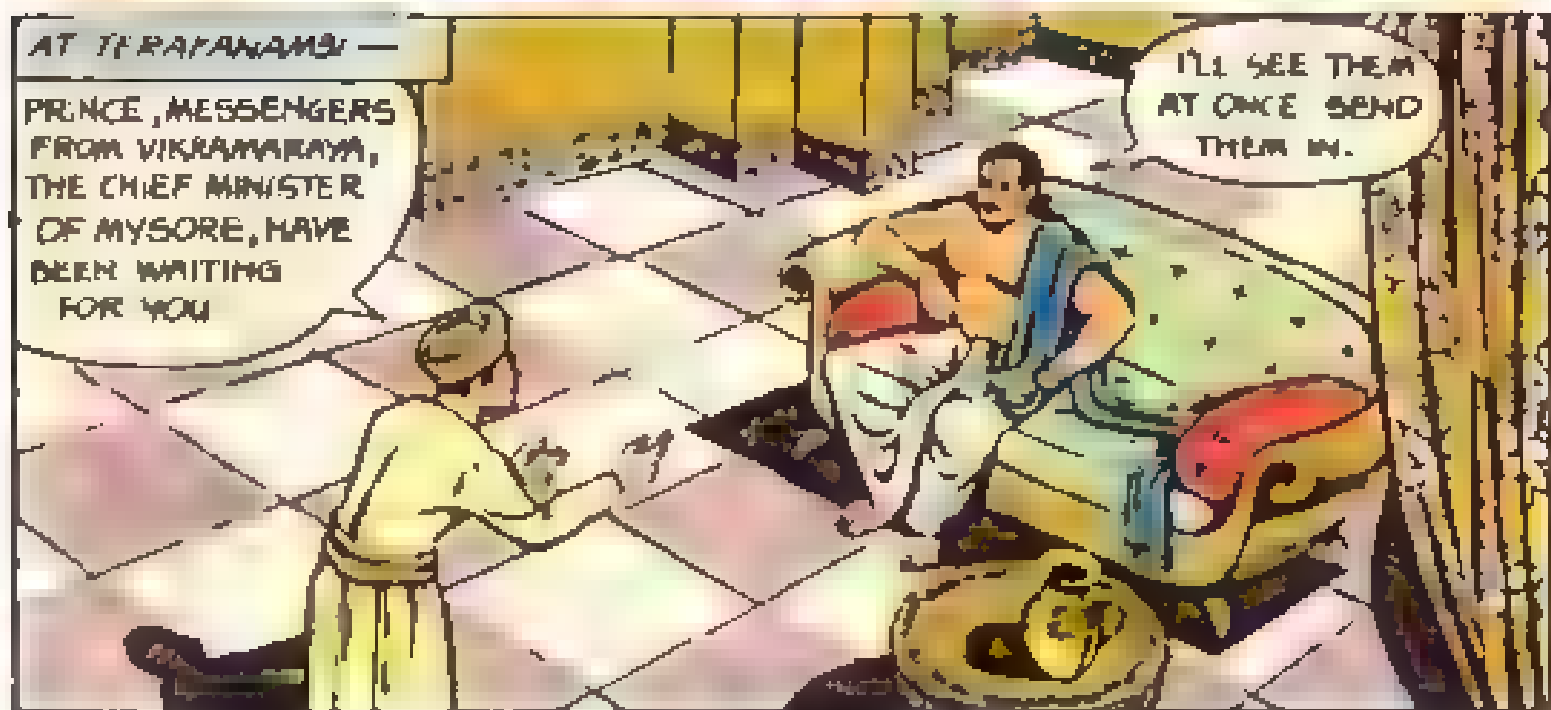


YOU COULD BE RIGHT
BUT SEND SOMEONE
TO MYSORE TO FIND
OUT WE MUST
AVENGE THIS
INSULT

MEANWHILE THE VICTORIOUS WRESTLER WHO WAS INDEED RAMADHRA NAKASA-
RA A WALK ON HIS WAY BACK TO HIS ESTATE AT TERAPANAMBI.



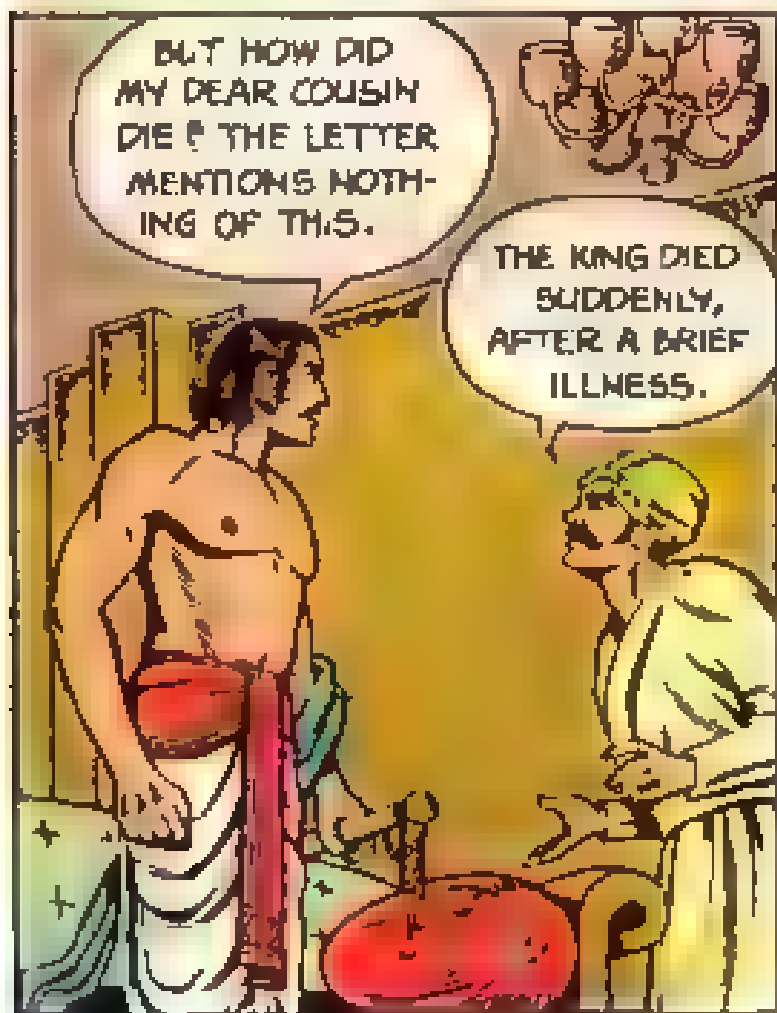
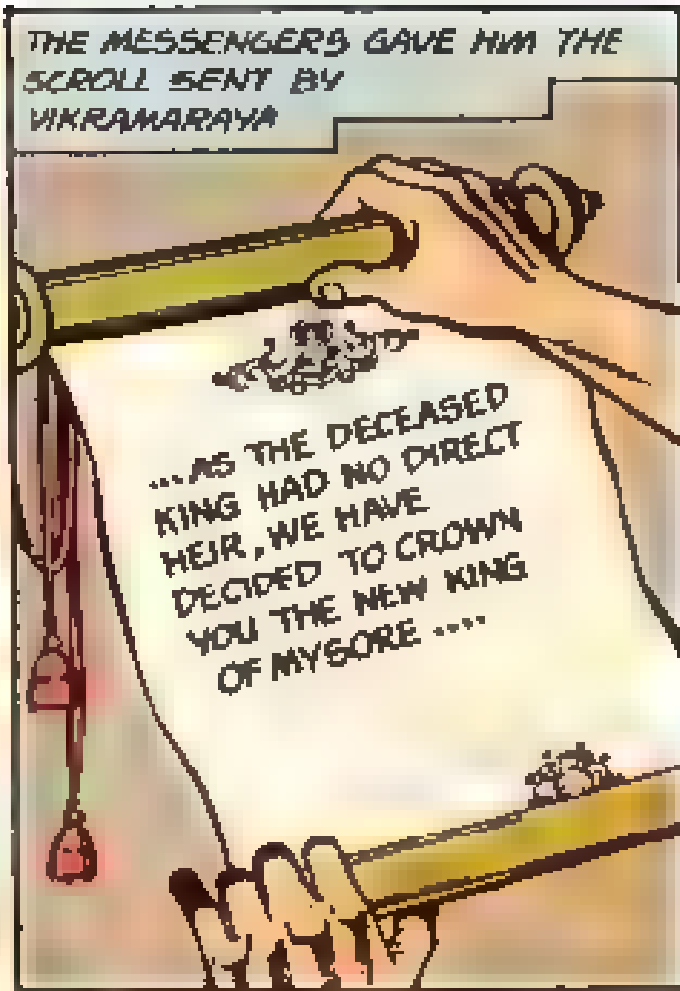
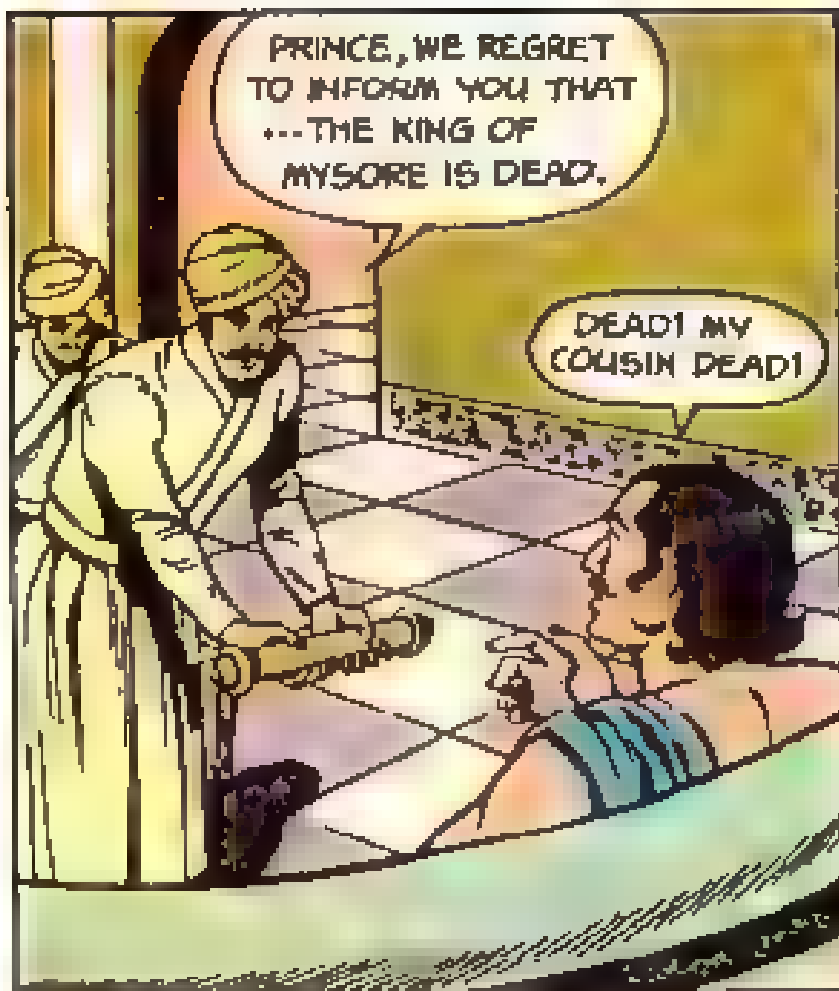
RAMADHRA, THANKS TO
YOU, THE PEOPLE OF TIRU-
CHIRAPALLI NEED NO
LONGER FEEL HUMILIATED
EVERY TIME THEY WALK
PAST THE GATEWAY.

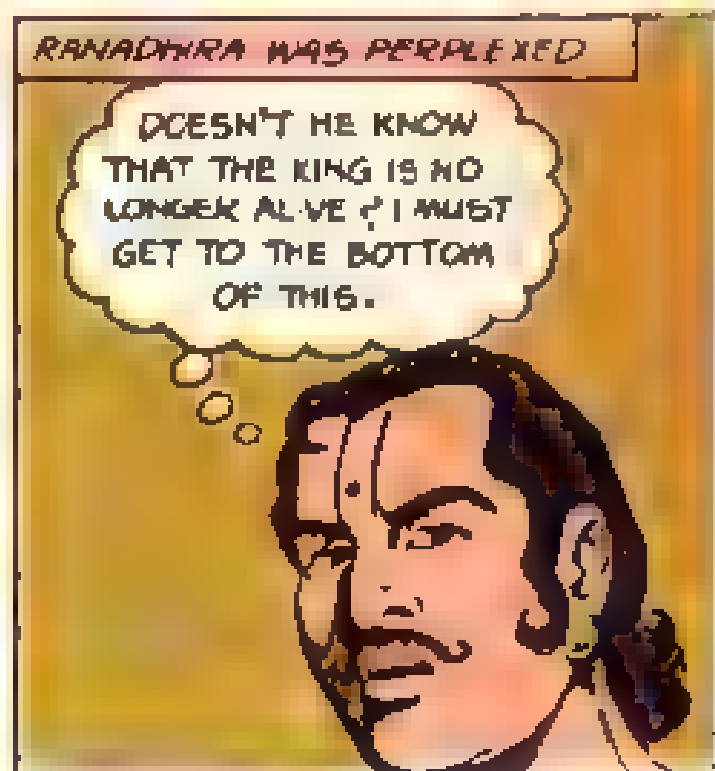
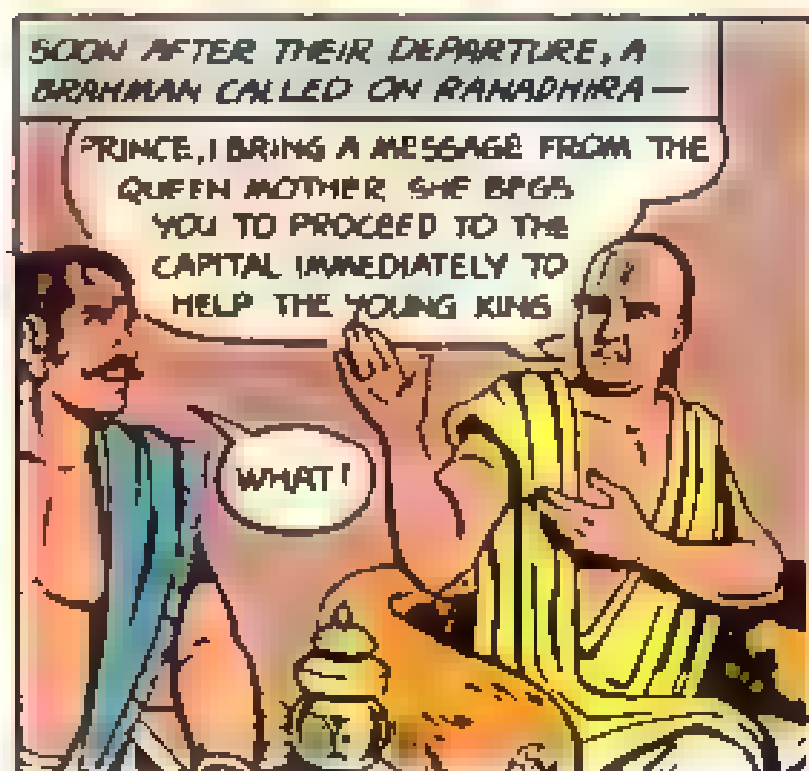
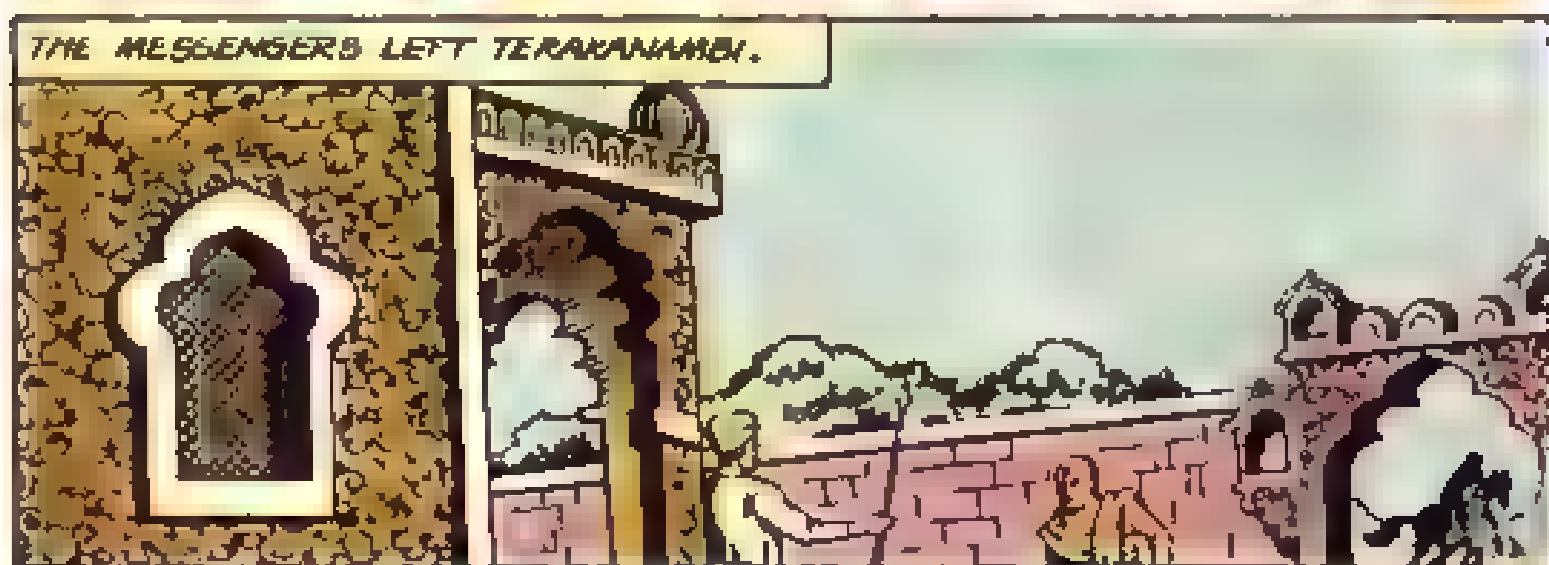
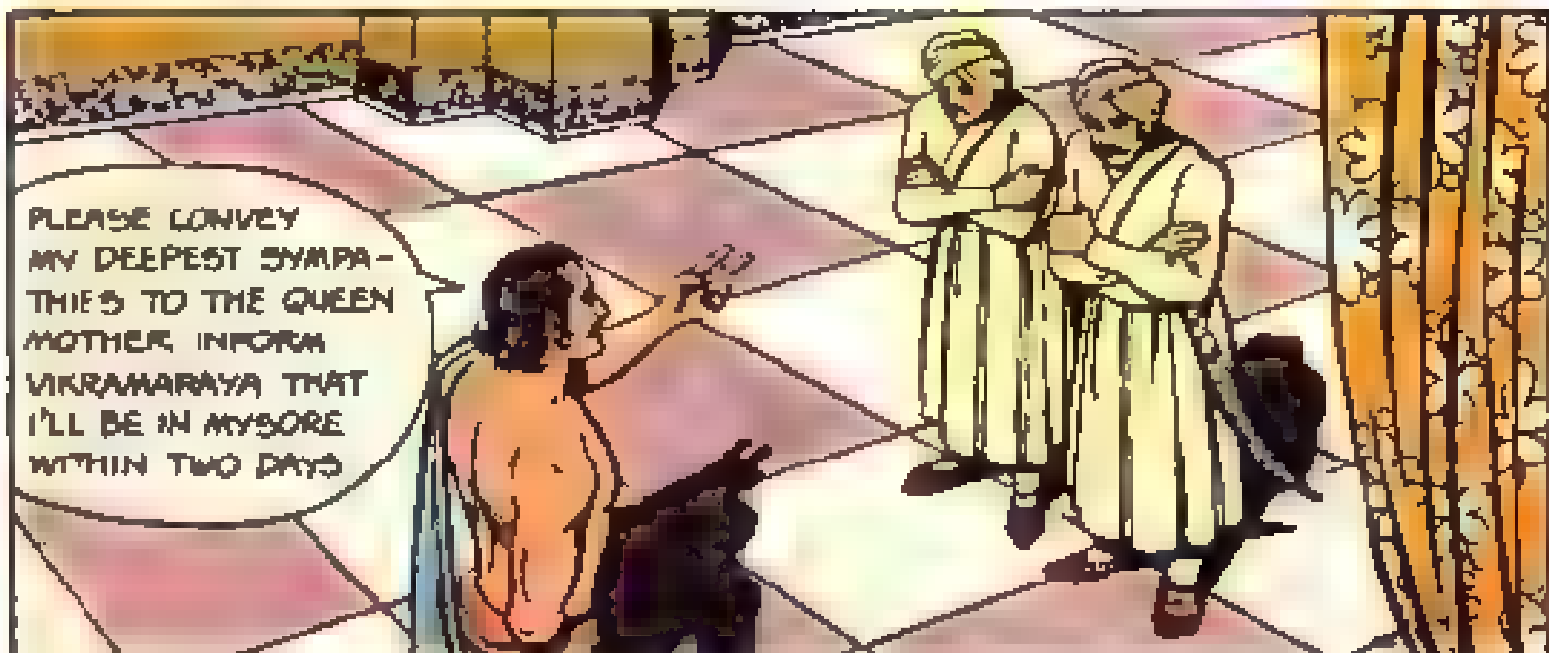


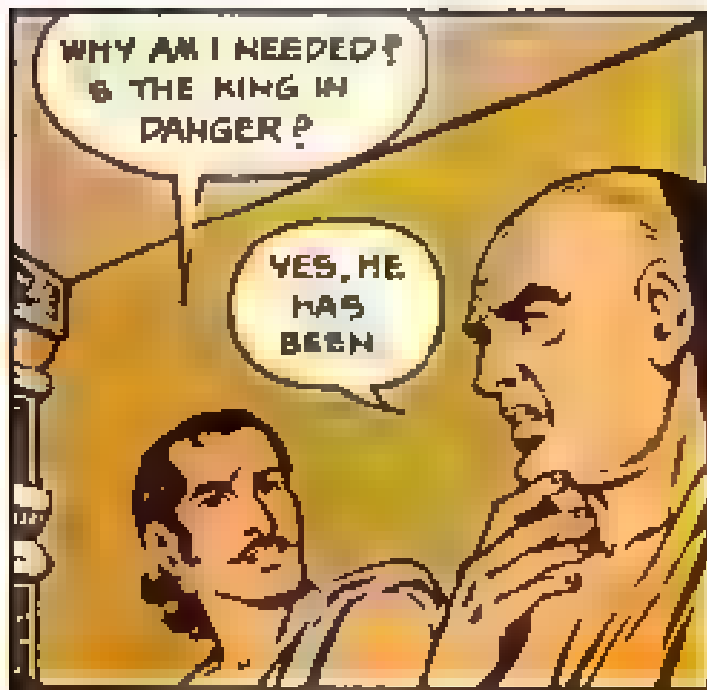
AT TERAPANAMBI —

PRINCE, MESSENGERS
FROM VIKRAMARAYA,
THE CHIEF MINISTER
OF MYSORE, HAVE
BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU

I'LL SEE THEM
AT ONCE SEND
THEM IN.

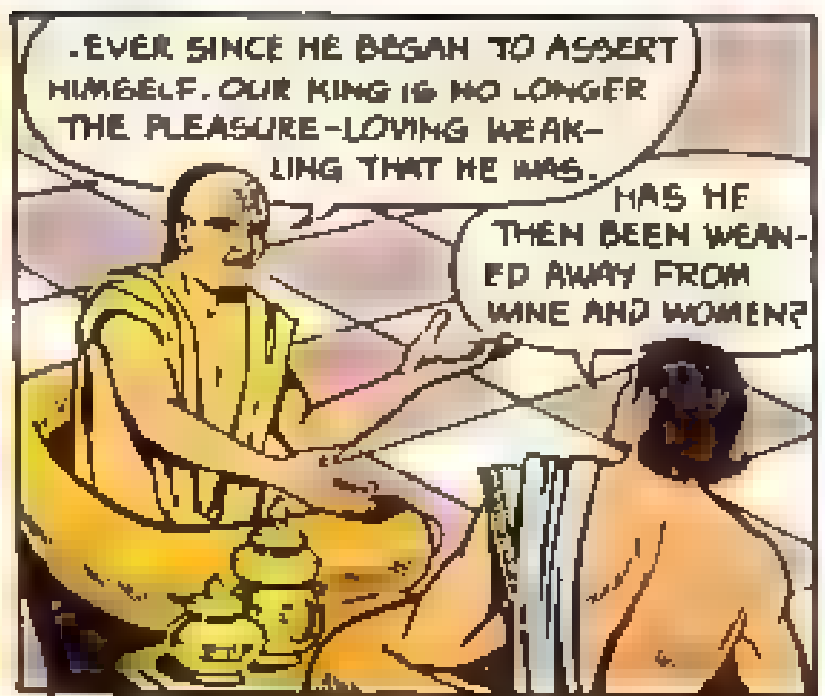






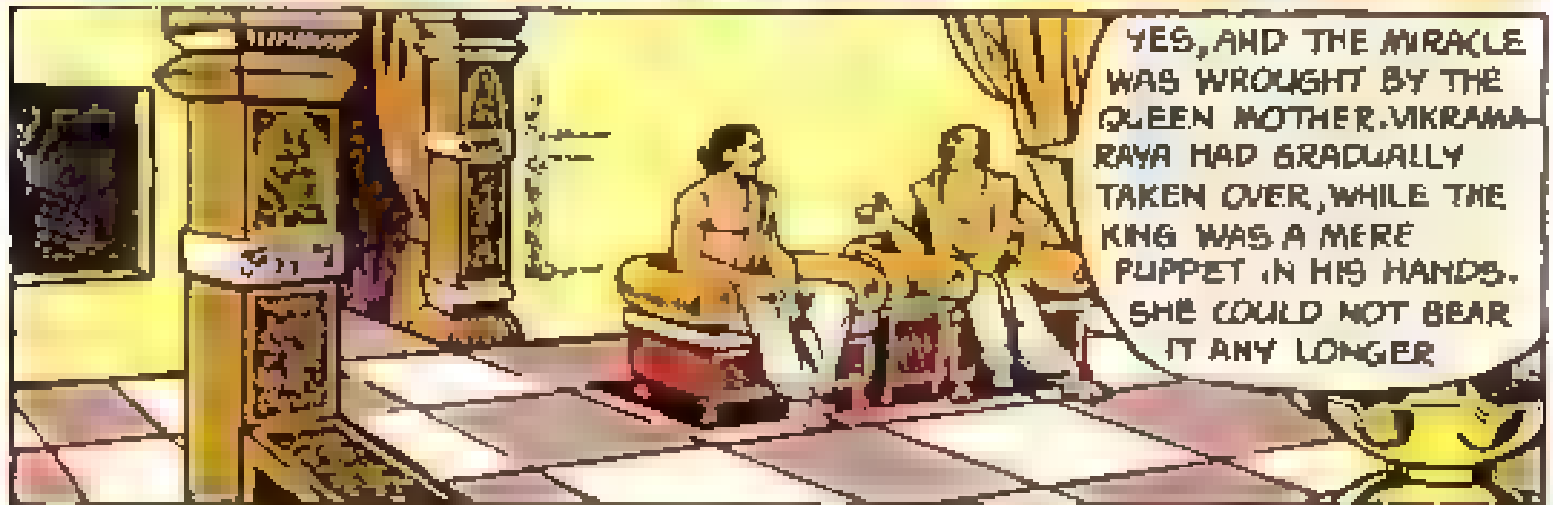
WHY AM I NEEDED?
& THE KING IN
DANGER?

YES, HE
HAS
BEEN

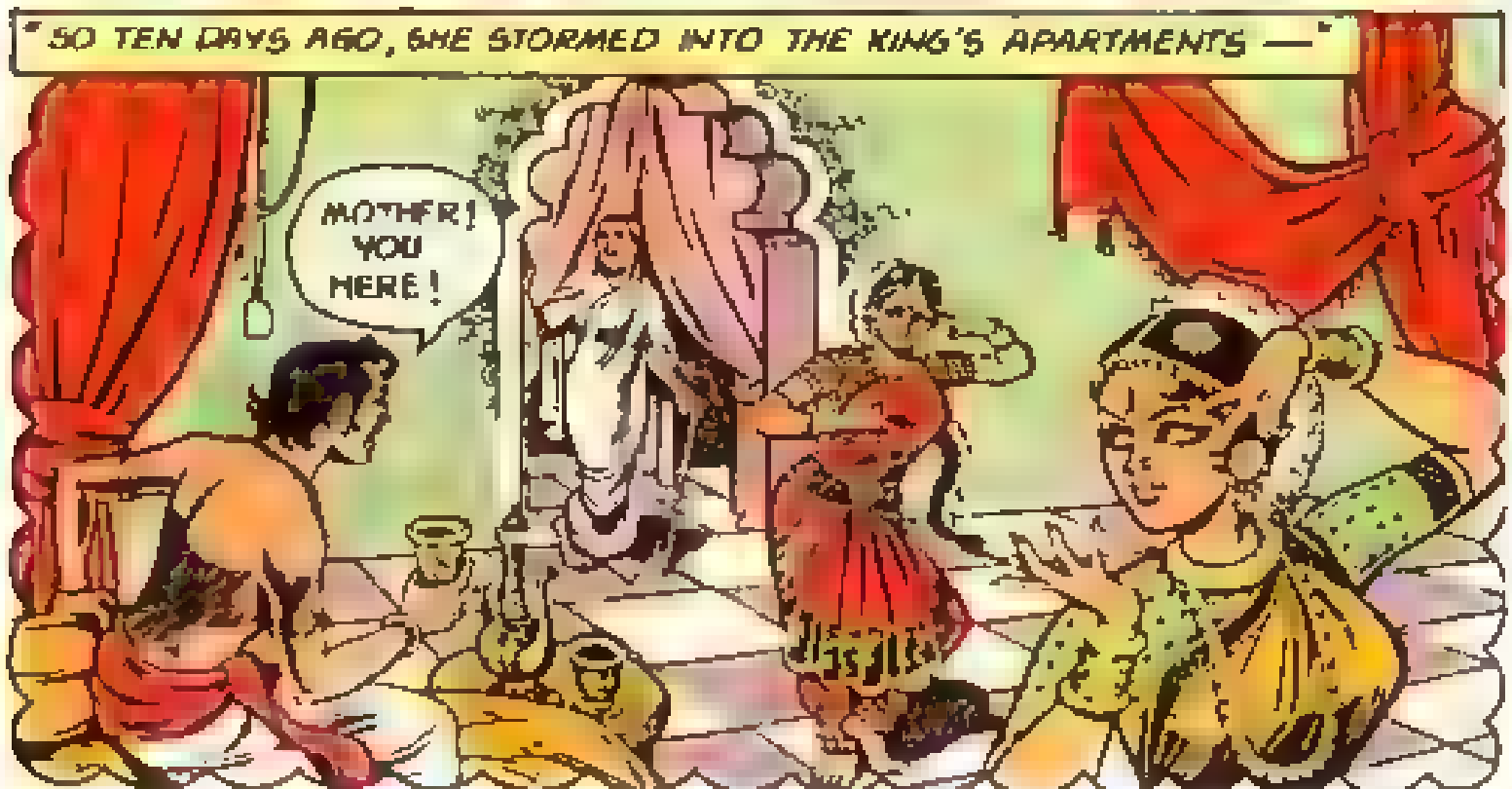


EVER SINCE HE BEGAN TO ASSERT
HIMSELF, OUR KING IS NO LONGER
THE PLEASURE-LOVING WEAK-
LING THAT HE WAS.

HAS HE
THEN BEEN WEAN-
ED AWAY FROM
WINE AND WOMEN?



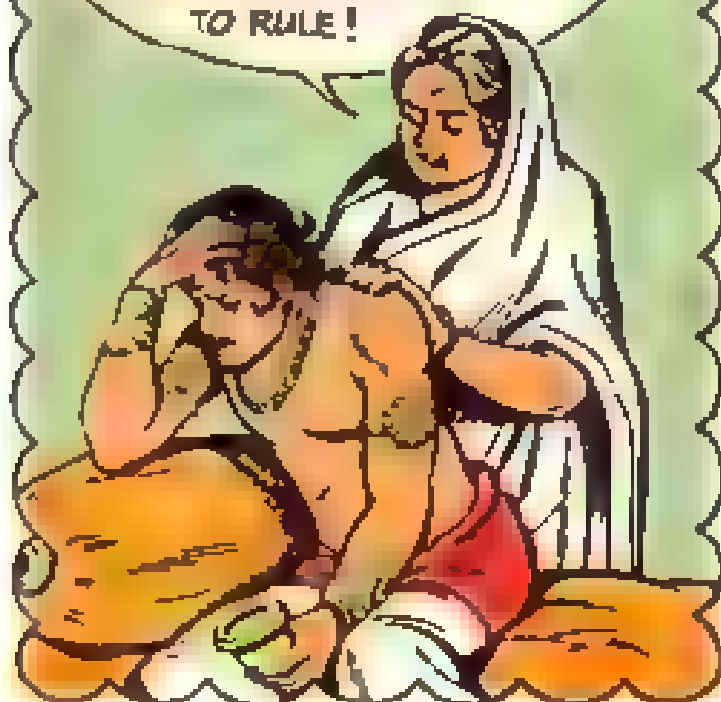
YES, AND THE MIRACLE
WAS WROUGHT BY THE
QUEEN MOTHER, VIKRAMA-
RAYA HAD GRADUALLY
TAKEN OVER, WHILE THE
KING WAS A MERE
PUPPET IN HIS HANDS.
SHE COULD NOT BEAR
IT ANY LONGER



MOTHER!
YOU
HERE!

"SO TEN DAYS AGO, SHE STORMED INTO THE KING'S APARTMENTS —"

SON, YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN
YOUR DUTIES TO YOUR PEOPLE
AND THE STATE! YOU HAVE
BETRAYED THE TRUST PLACED
IN YOU BY YOUR
FATHER! YOU ARE UNFIT
TO RULE!



"THE KING BECAME AWARE OF HIS RESPON-
SIBILITIES AND BEGAN TO LEAD A NEW
LIFE. HE PAID A SURPRISE VISIT TO THE
TREASURY."

LET ME SEE THE INVEN-
TORY. OPEN THE
TREASURY
DOORS

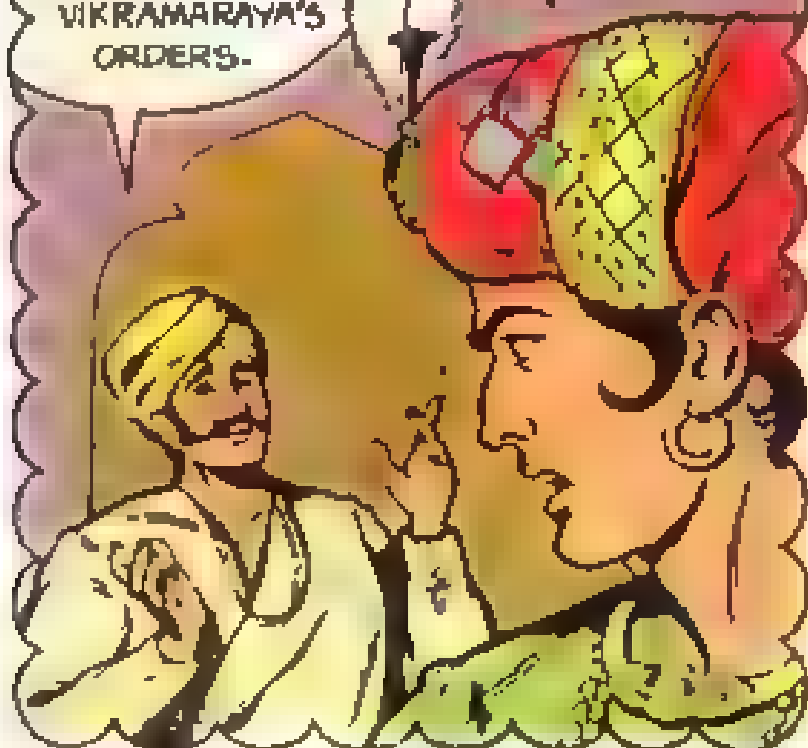


YES,
YOUR
MAJESTY

"HE FOUND THERE WAS A HUGE DEFICIT."

WE ARE INNOCENT,
YOUR MAJESTY
WE HAVE BEEN
CARRYING OUT
VIKRAMARAYA'S
ORDERS.

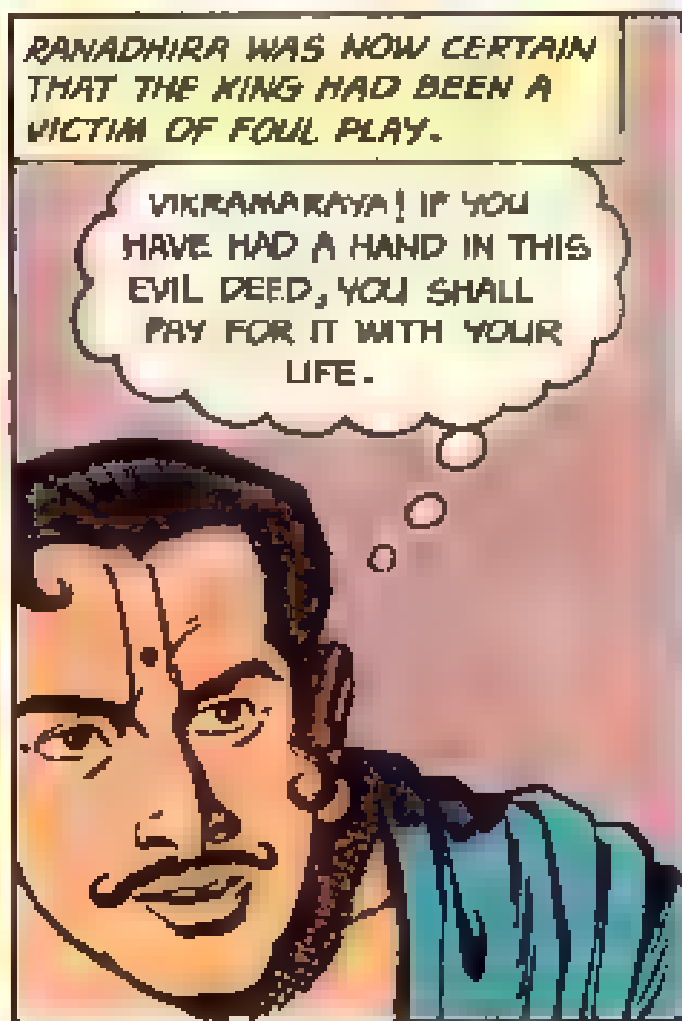
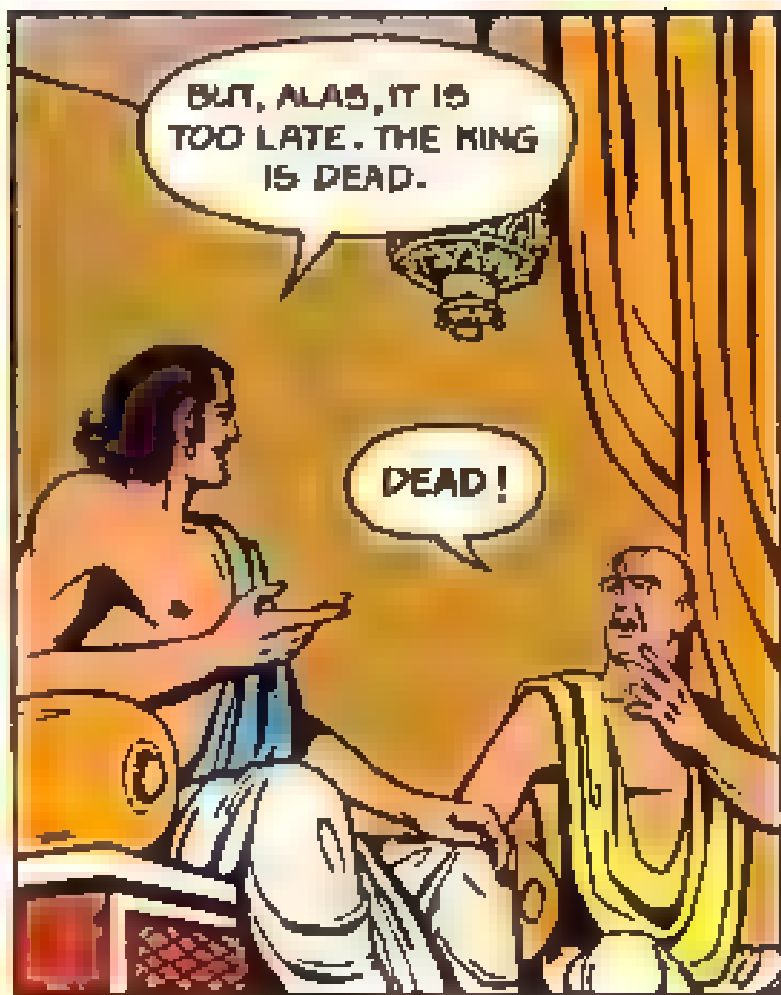
ASK HIM TO
SEE ME AT
ONCE.



THE BRAHMAN CONTINUED HIS
STORY -

THE QUEEN MOTHER
IS GLAD THAT THE KING
HAS AT LAST ASSERTED
HIS AUTHORITY BUT SHE
IS AFRAID THAT VIKRAMA-
RAYA MAY HARM HIM





THE FOLLOWING DAY RANADHIRA LEFT FOR MYSORE HE WAS RECEIVED BY VIKRAMARAYA ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.



HE WAS TAKEN TO THE PALACE IN A PROCESSION —



AT THE PALACE —



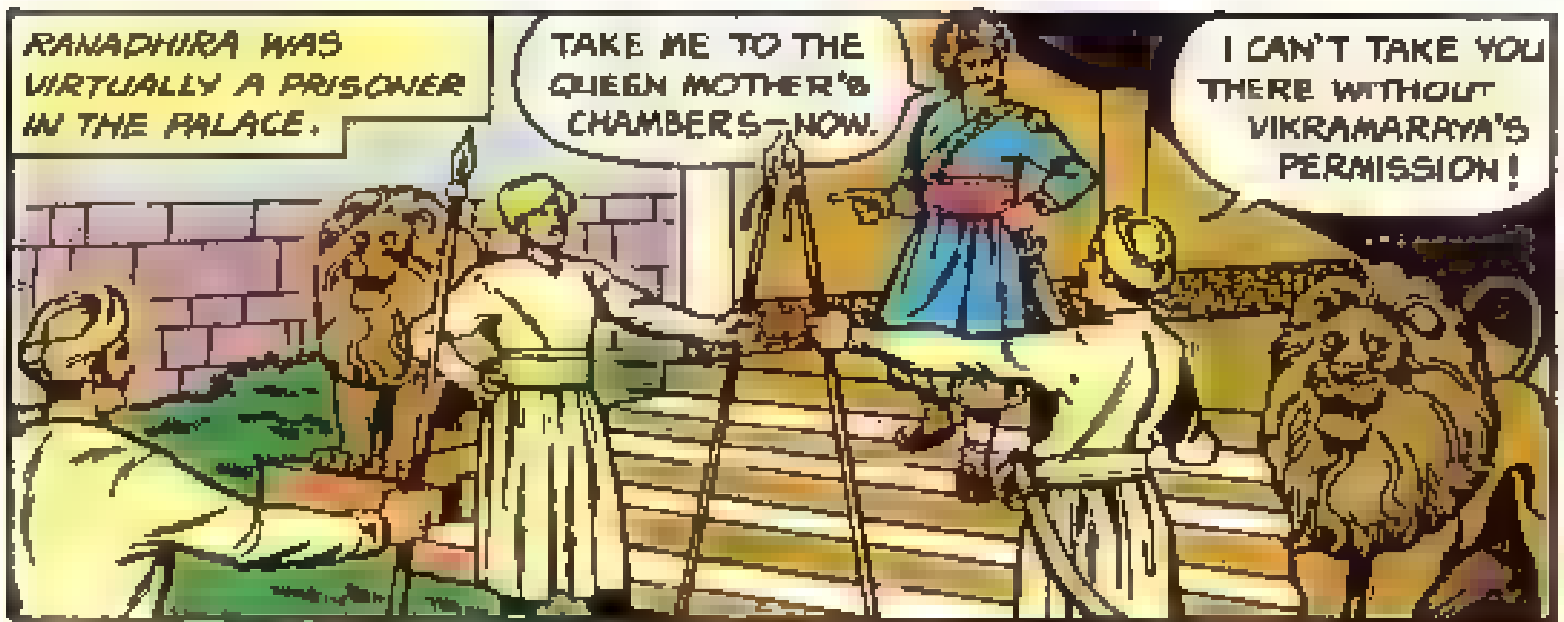
BUT ONCE VIKRAMARAYA HAD RANADHIRA THERE —



RANADHIRA WAS
VIRTUALLY A PRISONER
IN THE PALACE.

TAKE ME TO THE
QUEEN MOTHER'S
CHAMBERS-NOW.

I CAN'T TAKE YOU
THERE WITHOUT
VIKRAMARAYA'S
PERMISSION!



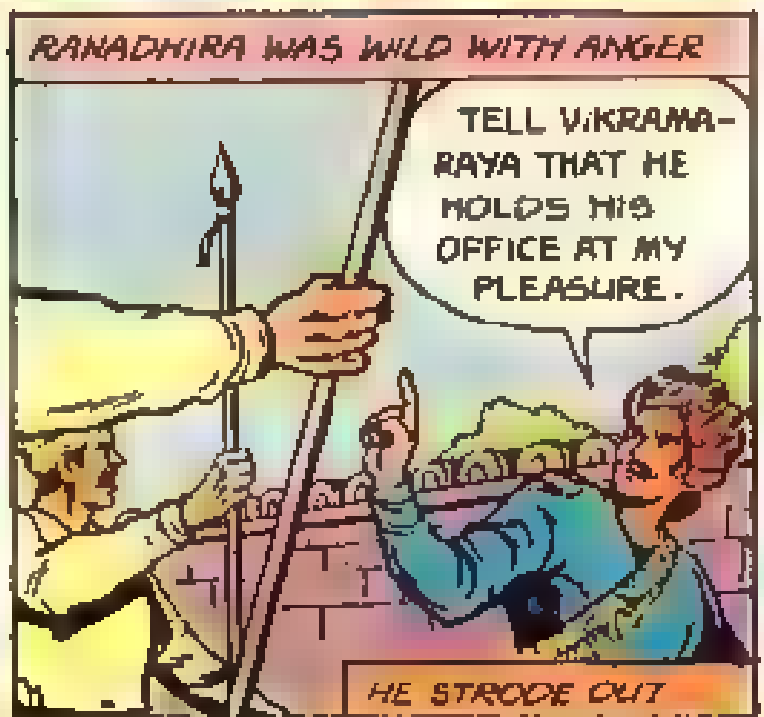
YOU WORM,
HOW DARE YOU
SAY THAT!

THOSE ARE
VIKRAMARAYA'S
ORDERS,
PRINCE.



RANADHIRA WAS WILD WITH ANGER

TELL VIKRAMA-
RAYA THAT HE
HOLDS HIS
OFFICE AT MY
PLEASURE.

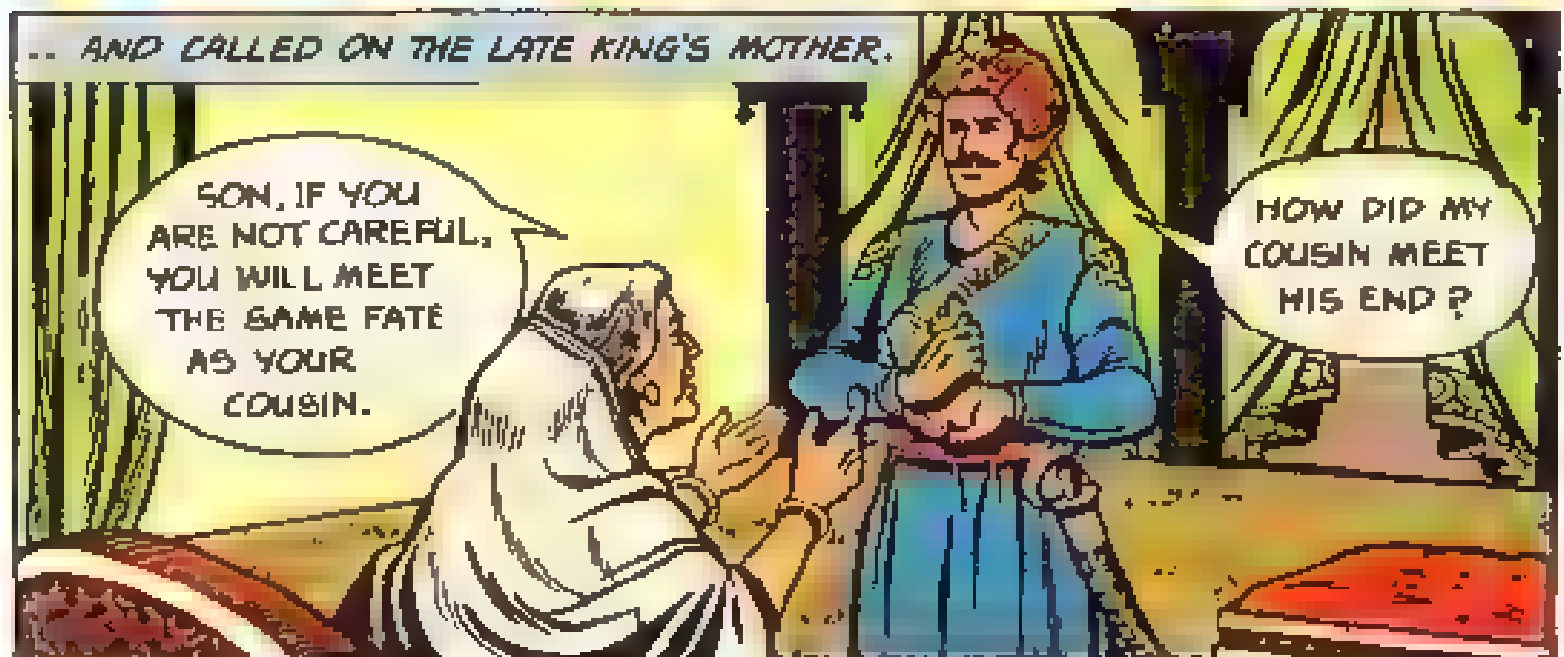


HE STRODE OUT

... AND CALLED ON THE LATE KING'S MOTHER.

SON, IF YOU
ARE NOT CAREFUL,
YOU WILL MEET
THE SAME FATE
AS YOUR
COUSIN.

HOW DID MY
COUSIN MEET
HIS END?

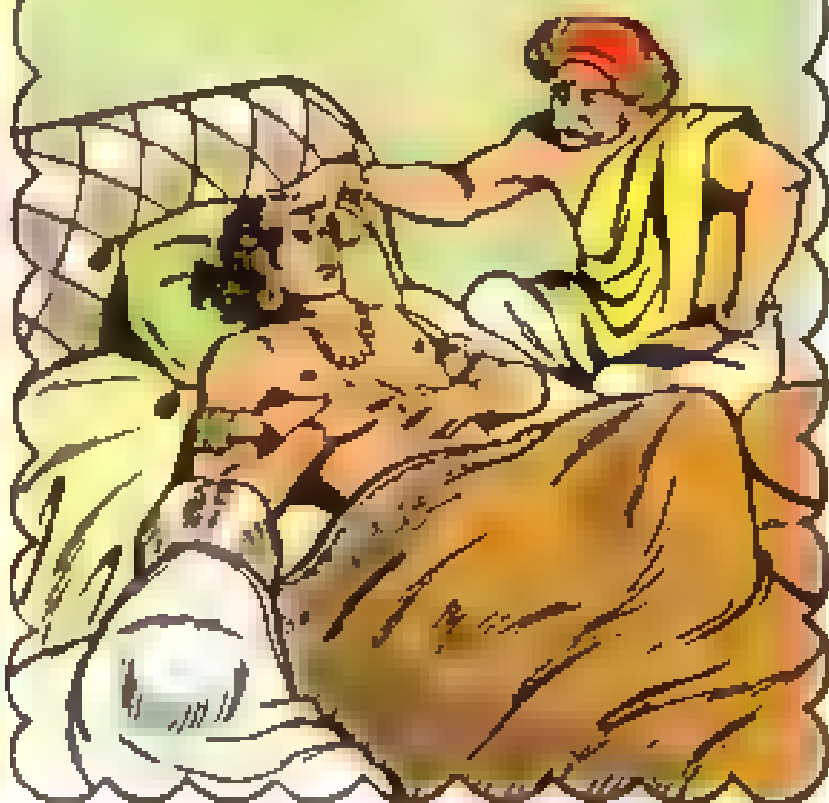


THE QUEEN RECOUNTED THE SAD STORY

WHEN MY SON RETURNED AFTER INSPECTING THE TREASURY, HE LOOKED VERY TIRED



"I CALLED IN THE PHYSICIAN, DOMMARASA"



"HE PREPARED A MIXTURE."

THE KING WILL SOON BECOME BETTER AFTER HE TAKES THIS.



"BUT THE KING REFUSED TO TAKE IT"

YOUR MAJESTY, DRINK IT.

WHY ALL THIS FUSS? A DAY'S REST WILL CURE ME.



"I COMPELLED HIM TO DRINK IT"

DON'T REFUSE, SON
PLEASE TAKE THE
MEDICINE

ALL RIGHT,
MOTHER TO
PLEASE YOU,
I WILL



"SOON AFTER TAKING THE MEDICINE
HE CRIED OUT —"

MOTHER, I FEEL AS
IF I'M ON FIRE! OH,
I CAN'T STAND IT!

BOMMARASA,
DO
SURE THING



"BOMMARASA EXAMINED HIM"

I AM SORRY
THE KING IS
DEAD

OH,
NO!



"EVEN IN MY SLEEPING,
I SUSPECTED BOMMARASA"

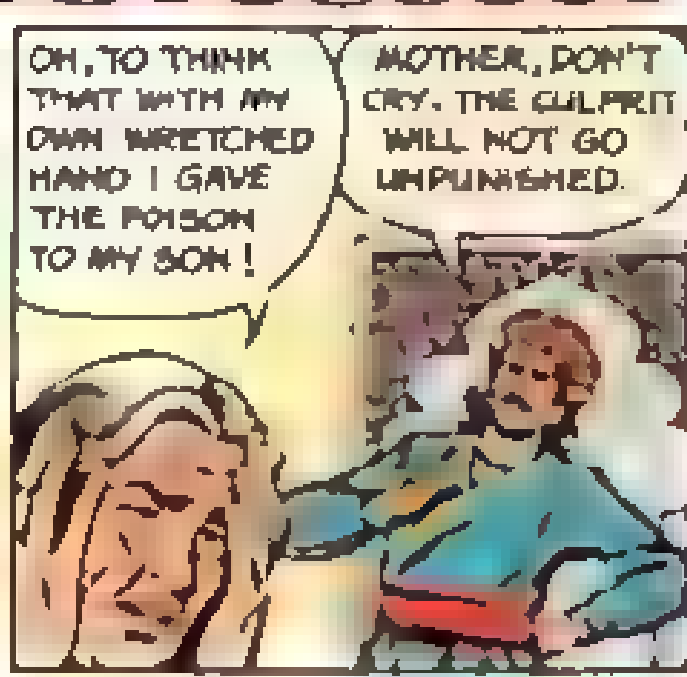
LET THE DEAD KING
BE WITNESS. TELL ME
THE TRUTH BOMMARASA.
WHAT DID YOU GIVE
HIM TO DRINK?

I AM SORRY
VIRABHADRA
ORDERED ME TO
GIVE HIM POISON



OH, TO THINK
THAT WITH MY
OWN WRETCHED
HAND I GAVE
THE POISON
TO MY SON!

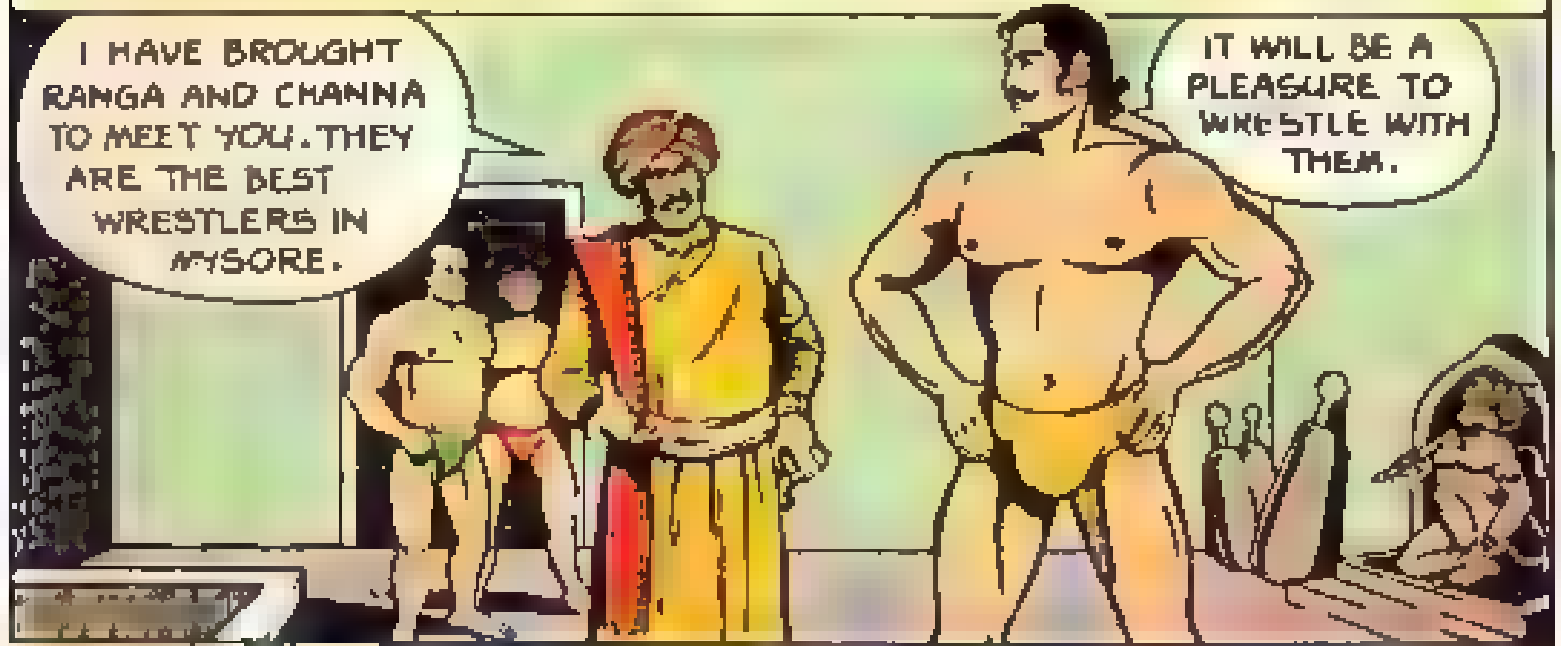
MOTHER, DON'T
CRY. THE GUILPIT
WILL NOT GO
UNPUNISHED.



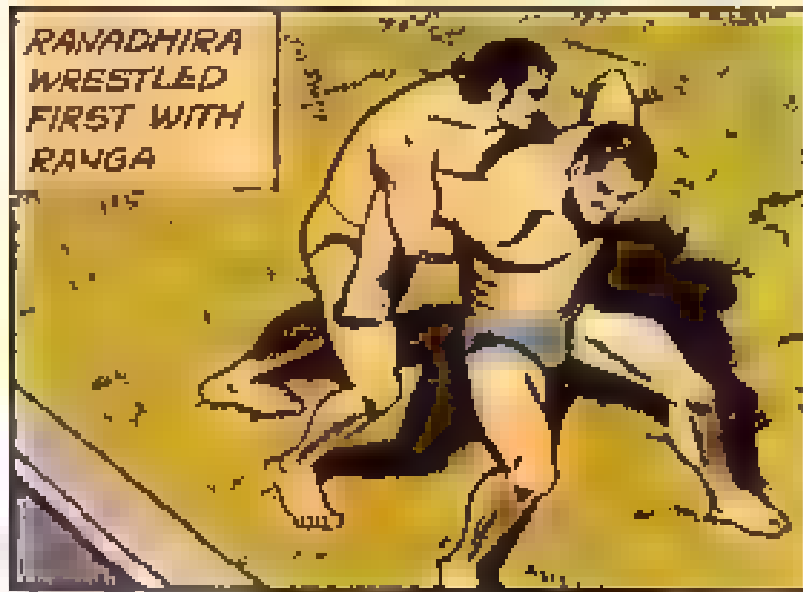
THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AS RANADHIRA WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN HIS USUAL PHYSICAL EXERCISES AT THE PALACE GYMNASIUM, VIKRAMARAYA ARRIVED

I HAVE BROUGHT RANGA AND CHANNA TO MEET YOU. THEY ARE THE BEST WRESTLERS IN MYSORE.

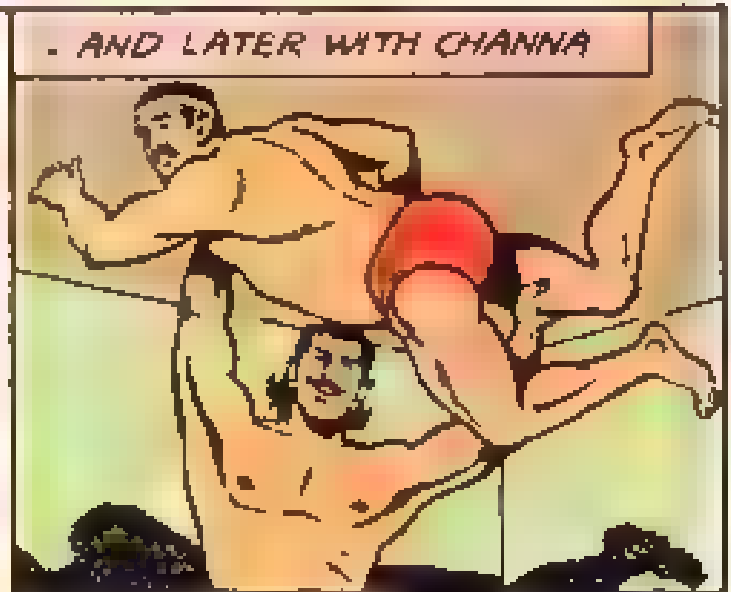
IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO WRESTLE WITH THEM.



RANADHIRA WRESTLED FIRST WITH RANGA



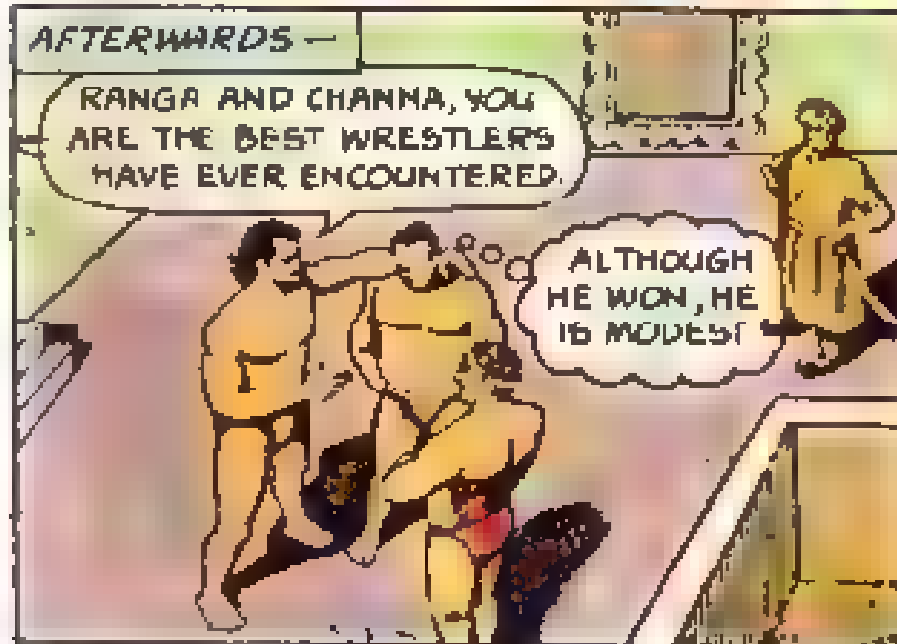
AND LATER WITH CHANNA



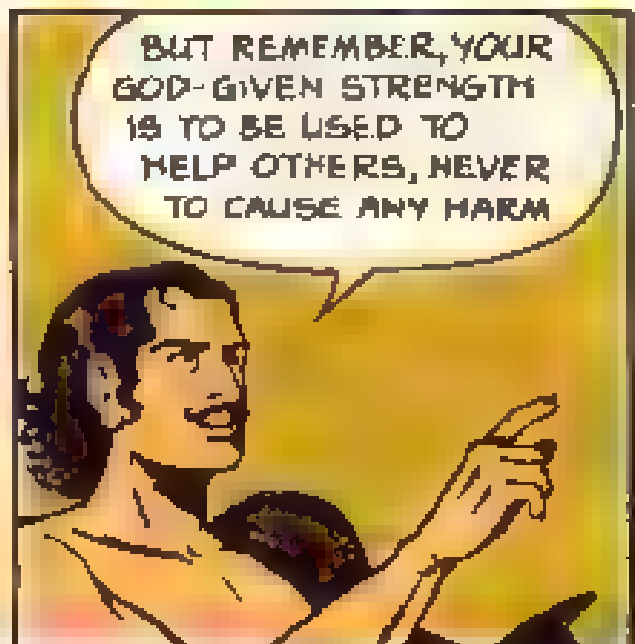
AFTERWARDS —

RANGA AND CHANNA, YOU ARE THE BEST WRESTLERS I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

ALTHOUGH HE WON, HE IS MODEST



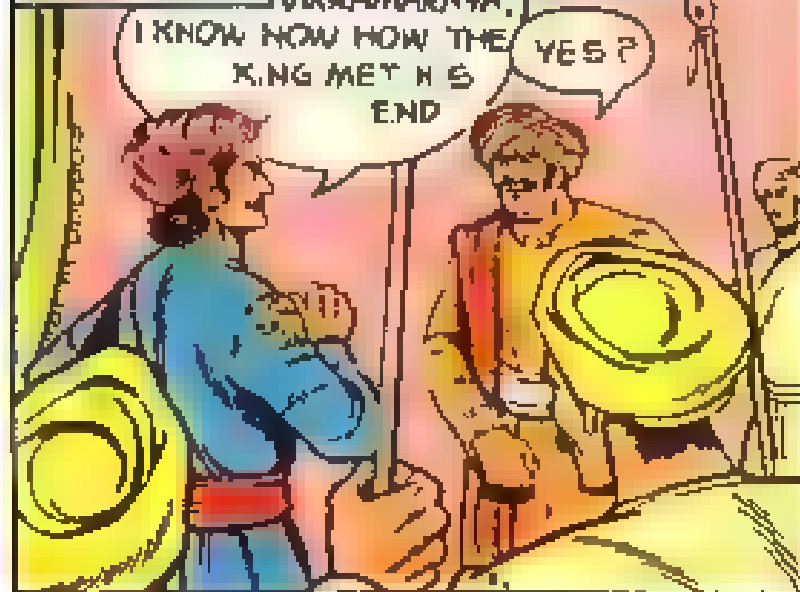
BUT REMEMBER, YOUR GOD-GIVEN STRENGTH IS TO BE USED TO HELP OTHERS, NEVER TO CAUSE ANY HARM



AS RANADHIRA LEFT FOR HIS CHAMBER, WITH VIKRAMARAYA —



WHEN RANADHIRA REACHED HIS CHAMBER—



RANADHIRA SUMMONED THE GUARDS



VIKRAMARAYA LAUGHED —

WELL, WHY DON'T
YOU ARREST ME,
MY PRINCE?

THEN HE WARNED RANADHIRA —

DON'T FORGET
THAT YOU ARE NOT
YET A KING — NOR
WILL YOU EVER
BE A KING!

WE SHALL
SEE!

VIKRAMARAYA STEPPED OUT OF
RANADHIRA'S CHAMBER AND
LOCKED THE DOOR.

BE VIGILANT.
THE TIGER IS
ANGRY.

BUT THE
CAGE IS
STRONG,
MY LORD.

LATER VIKRAMARAYA SENT FOR
THE WRESTLERS.

GO TO RANADHIRA'S
CHAMBER TONIGHT
AND KILL HIM. I'LL
ALSO BE THERE
TO SEE HIM DIE

BUT RANGA AND CHANNA HAD OTHER PLANS

YOU KNOW
WHOM TO KILL
TONIGHT?

YOU CAN
COUNT ON
ME

THAT NIGHT, RANADHIRA,
TOO, HAD MADE HIS OWN
PLANS—

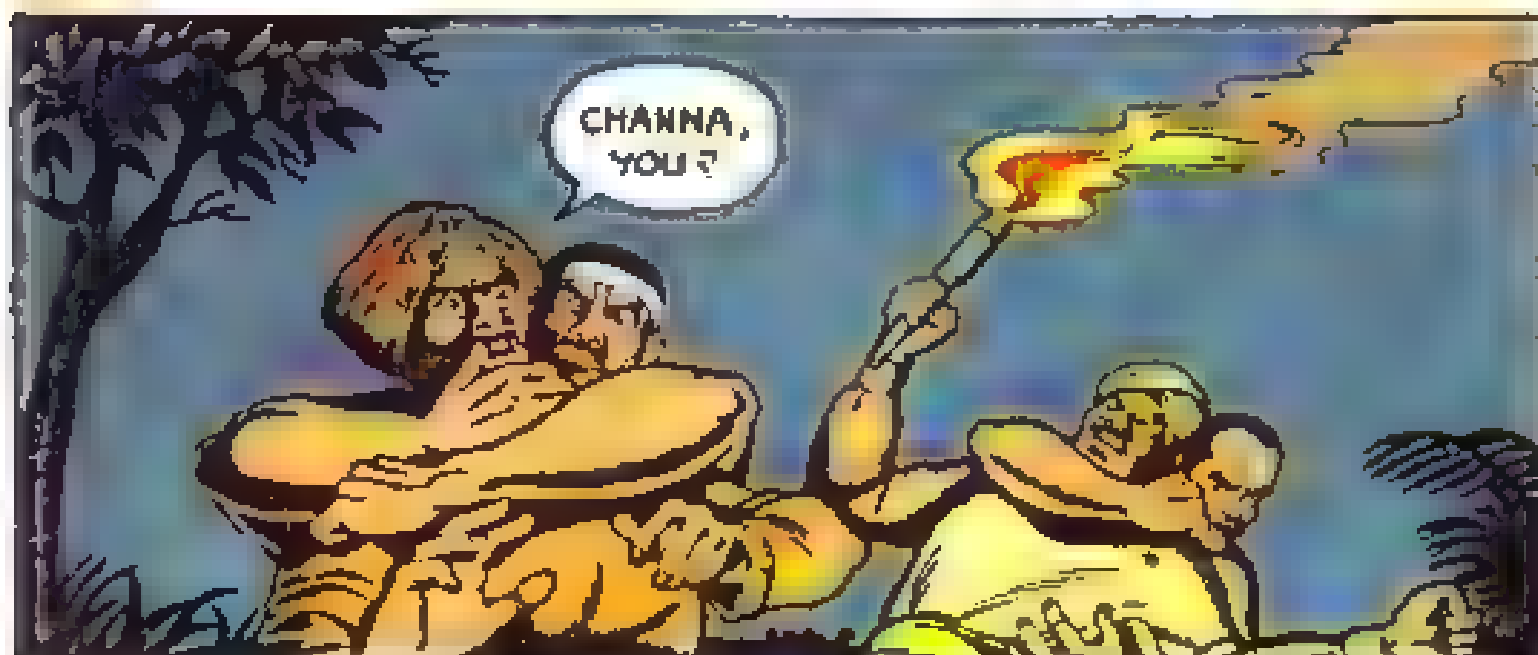
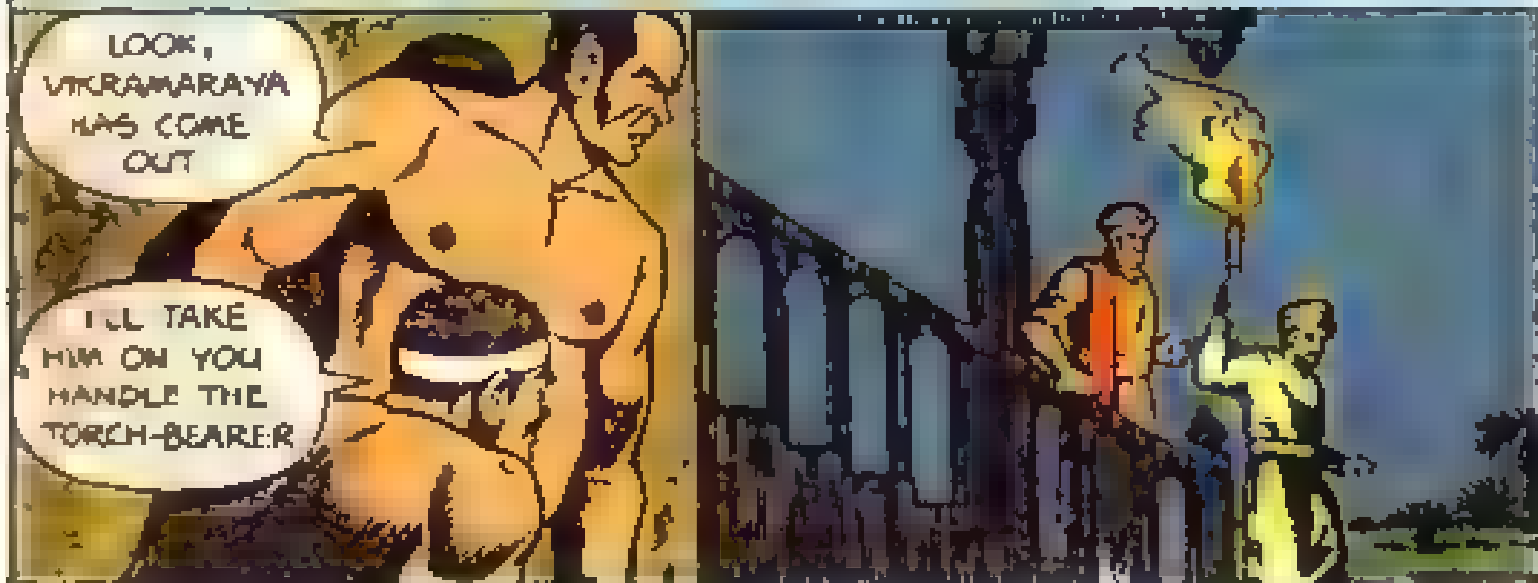
HE BENT THE WINDOW BARS APART

AND
ESCAPED!

RANADHIRA THEN SET OUT FOR THE
RESIDENCE OF VIKRAMARAYA

VIKRAMARAYA
HAS A SURPRISE
IN STORE FOR
HIM

MEANWHILE RANGA AND CHANNA WERE WAITING AT VIKRAMARAYA'S RESIDENCE.



A cartoon illustration showing a man in a blue shirt pointing his finger at a man in a yellow shirt. A speech bubble from the man in blue says, "HERE IS THE MAN WHO MURDERED YOUR KING. PUT HIM BEHIND BARS!". There are other people in the background, including a man in a yellow shirt and a man in a white shirt. The scene appears to be outdoors with a green field and a purple sky.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING,
WHEN THE PEOPLE OF MYSORE
CAME TO HEAR OF VIKRAMARAYA'S
EVIL DESIGNS, THEY ACCLAIMED
THE YOUNG PRINCE.



A crowd of people is shown celebrating. In the foreground, a man with a red turban and a woman are cheering. A speech bubble from the man says "VICTORY TO RAJADHIRAJ!". In the background, a man in a green turban is also visible.

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a theatrical performance. In the center, a figure in a blue costume is captured in a dynamic pose, possibly dancing or performing. They are surrounded by other performers in various costumes, including one in a red costume and another in a yellow costume. The scene is framed by large, ornate columns and a decorative archway. The background is a deep red, and the overall style is reminiscent of a classic theatrical poster or a stylized photograph.

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED THE SULTAN OF BHAUPUR—

THE NEW KING IS
INEXPERIENCED ISN'T
THIS THE RIGHT
TIME TO ATTACK
MYSORE?

YOU ARE CORRECT
RANAULLA KHAN
WE'LL ANNEX
MYSORE.

THE BHAUPUR ARMY, UNDER RANAULLA KHAN, SIEGED
SER RANGA PATTAN, THE CAPITAL OF MYSORE



THEY MADE A BREACH IN THE WALL OF THE FORT AND ENTERED THE CITY.



BUT RANADHIRA MADE A BRAVE, FRONTAL ATTACK ON THE ENEMY...



..AND, TAKEN OFF GUARD, THEY RETREATED.



MEANWHILE AT TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

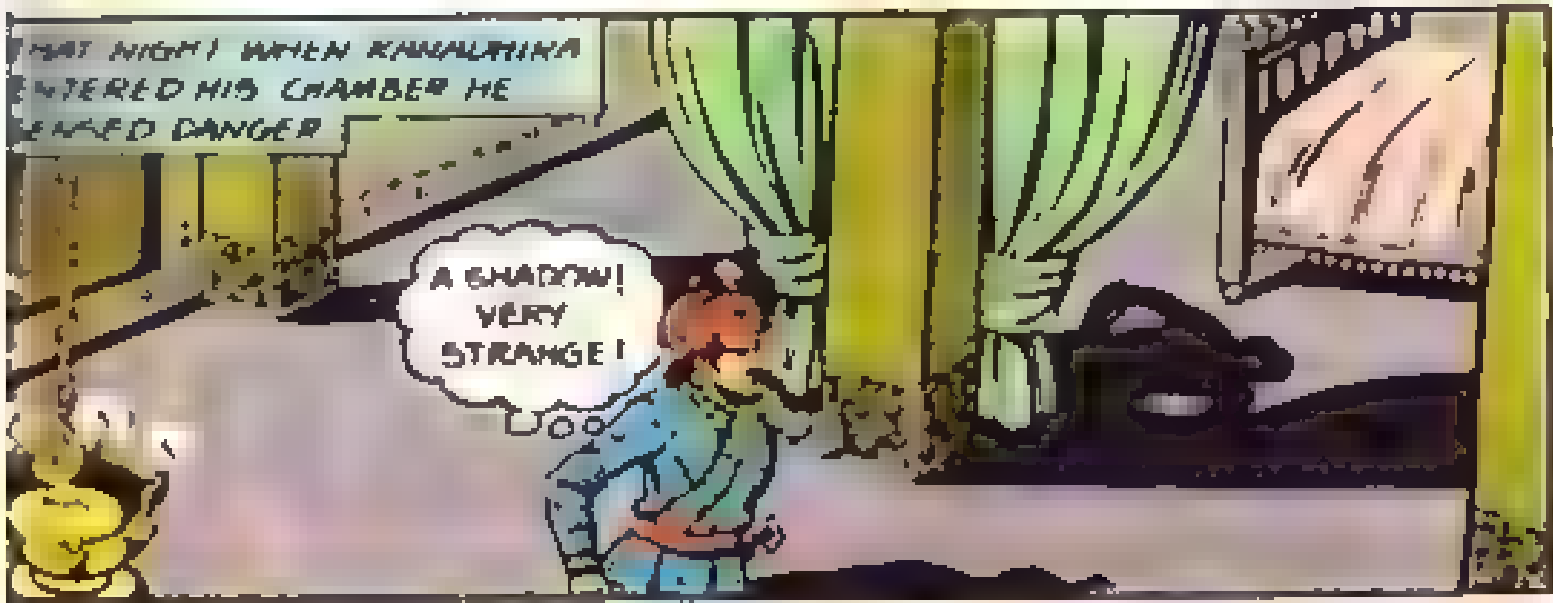


THE WRESTLER WHO INSULTED US HAS NOW BECOME THE KING OF MYSORE SEND OUR MEN TO MYSORE IN DISGUISE AND...

TWENTY FIVE WRESTLERS LEFT FOR MYSONE ON A MISSION TO KILL RANADHIRA.



THAT NIGHT WHEN RANADHIRA ENTERED HIS CHAMBER HE FELT DANGER



THE NEXT MOMENT -

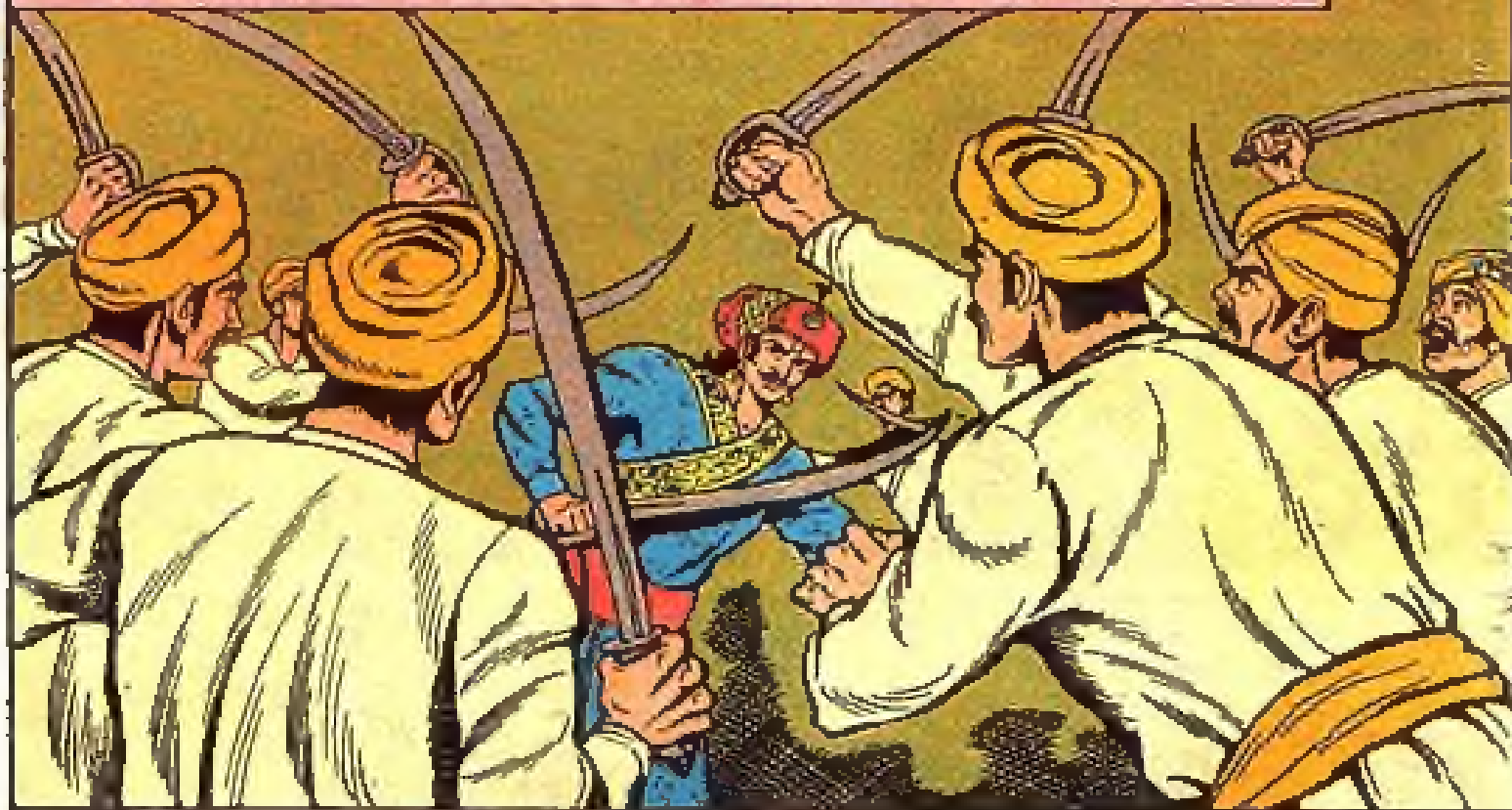


WHO ARE YOU?



LEAVE HIM ALONE!

RANADHIRA WAS SOON SURROUNDED BY THE TWENTY-FIVE MEN.



BUT HE DID NOT FLINCH.



THE ROYAL GUARDS OUTSIDE HEARD THE NOISE.



AH-TAN-BANG.

WHAT'S THAT?

SOUNDS LIKE A FIGHT! LET'S GO!

WHEN THE GUARDS BROKE INTO THE ROOM, THEY FOUND THEIR KING
STANDING LIKE ROCK AMIDST THE VANQUISHED MEN.



WHEN THE ATTACK MADE ON THEIR KING
BECAME KNOWN —



LEGENDS ABOUT THE SUPERHUMAN MIGHT OF RANADHIRA GREW AND CHILLED
THE HEARTS OF RIVAL KINGS. HE EXPANDED HIS EMPIRE AND MADE MYSORE STRONG.

◆ AN AVATAR OF VISHNU



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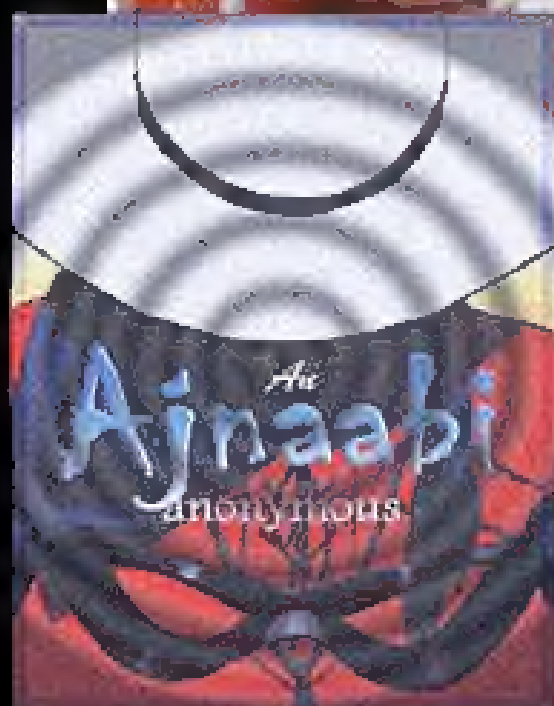
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